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NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2004

CS04-009

SASKATOON TO HOST NATIONAL RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTICIPATION

The City of Saskatoon today announced that Saskatoon is one of six sites selected from across Canada to host a research project on how municipalities engage diverse women in local consultations. The research is being used to develop a national action plan and policy recommendations along with a tool-kit to help municipalities and women be more effectively involved in municipal processes and decisions.

Race Relations Coordinator, Monica Goulet, said given that Saskatoon has one of the highest numbers of Aboriginal people living in an urban area, we have an increasingly multicultural community.

"Saskatoon is an ideal research site for the study and it's a real opportunity for us to make some inroads with marginalized women, particularly from Aboriginal, immigrant, refugee and visible minority populations who are not always represented or heard," Goulet said.

The projects will hold focus groups beginning this Saturday, January 31st to bring together women to discuss how they became involved or what barriers are preventing their involvement. Any women interested in participating are asked to register in advance by calling the Race Relations office at 975-7826 or Verna St. Denis at 966-2734. Transportation and childcare subsidies are available and food will be provided. Each focus group will meet twice. Saturday's sessions are at the Grassroots Learning and Resource Centre (Food Bank) beginning at 12:30 pm and at 4:30 pm another group will meet at the Saskatoon Community Service Village.

The study is sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, Status of Women Canada, the City of Saskatoon, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The University of Saskatchewan Behavioural research Ethics Board has given approval for the research.

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